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North Basrah residents see improvements

By A. Al Bahrani
 Gulf Region South District



Al Mawan'aa Hospital street, one of the busiest streets in Al Maqil, has been upgraded by the Gulf Region Division. (USACE Photo by A. Al Bahrani).

Basrah, Iraq—People in Basrah are now driving on newly-paved streets in Al Maqil, a neighborhood in north Basrah.

Ghassan Abdullateef, chief of technical department with the Basrah municipality, said he is very pleased with the \$1.7 million sewer renovation and street paving project. "The completed streets look great," Abdullateef said.

Currently 25 of the project's 29 streets are finished, according to James Hodges,

the construction representative overseeing the work for the Gulf Region Division.

"That project started last fall when most of those streets were in very bad condition and it was hard for people and vehicles to pass through," he explained. "There was standing sewage everywhere."

About 10.7 kilometers of streets were repaved. "Today local residents can look out on a clean, healthy neighborhood," Hodges said.



Two Iraqi workers prepare to remove sewage from an Al Maqil street. (USACE Photo).



One of the Al Maqil Neighborhood streets before being upgraded by the Gulf Region Division. (USACE Photo)

"Basrah municipal officials did their part in helping this project move forward," he continued. "They were very helpful in providing us with all the required permits along with drawings showing where the utilities were located, and the sewer pipe elevations."

'That road work is seen as a very positive thing, especially since it's in close proximity to many Iraqi Security Force facilities including the Basrah prison, an Iraqi Army base, and various police stations,' said Hodges who is overseeing a variety of essential service projects in and around Basrah including new healthcare clinics, water treatment plants, and school renovations.

"Community residents are very appreciative," he said. "They can see things are getting better."



A rolling compactor flattens and smoothes the freshly-laid asphalt on a road in Basrah. (USACE Photo by A. Al Bahrani)

Note: A. Al Bahrani is the public affairs Specialist for the Gulf Region South district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact public affairs by phone at 540- 665-1233, by e-mail to CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil, or visit www.grd.usace.army.mil.